

apply their knowledge to resolving local environmental problems.

The members of STREAMS share a common belief that we need to protect and preserve our environment for future generations. Three members under the leadership of STREAMS advisor Fred Wilson recently completed a stream assessment of Standing Stone Creek. I commend students Kaleigh Selisberto, Amy Slicker, and Margo Wilson for their hard work on this project. Let me share some of the accomplishments of STREAMS members over the last few years:

Constructed a wetland—They helped design, pay for, construct, landscape and create partnerships to build the wetland completed in September 1996.

Built a shallow ditch known as a swale—550 feet long by 35 feet wide with a two-foot depth to stabilize the streambanks with vegetation and prevent erosion, completed in September 1998.

Created Riparian Buffer Projects—Planted vegetation along a stream to stabilize the 550 feet swale in March 1999, and a second project was completed along another 440 feet swale in October 1999.

Planted Street Trees—Since 1995, students planted over 100 street trees, costing \$4,100, in Huntingdon Borough.

Completed Streambanks Restoration Projects—To encourage private property owners along Muddy Run stream to restore streambanks sections of the waterway, made a monetary contribution to help one homeowner place a 60 feet rip rap along an eroded high bank and donated large limestone rocks for a project on 24th Street.

Established a Tree Honorarium Program—In 1998, established a Community Tree Honorarium Award for people who have made significant contributions to improve the quality of life in Huntingdon. American veterans were the first recipients of this program.

Education—Delivered a paper document that they created to over 400 residences in the Muddy Run Watershed explaining how land management practices could help prevent storm water runoff, April 1998.

Started a School Recycling Program—The school district is now the largest recycler in the Huntingdon Borough.

Through their participation in the STREAMS organization the students of Huntingdon Area Middle School have learned the value of citizenship and stewardship in their community.

Mr. Speaker, I think each one of us has the right to enjoy the great outdoors either through camping, fishing, hunting, picnicking, biking, or any outdoor activity in which people choose to engage. Each one of us also has a larger responsibility to leave our environment cleaner than we received it so our children and grandchildren may enjoy the splendors of mother nature. The participants of STREAMS each deserve thanks for helping to improve our environment.

HONORING GORDON GILBERT

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gordon Gilbert for receiving the

U.S. Department of the Interior Valor Award. The award is given to employees of the department who "demonstrate unusual courage involving a high degree of personal risk in the face of extreme danger."

Sequoia National Park Ranger Gordon Gilbert was recognized for his involvement in a December 25, 1998, incident in Yosemite National Park. Rangers were called to a Yosemite Valley home where an armed man had barricaded himself and threatened suicide. Gilbert was the first Ranger to respond to the scene, and part of the team of five rangers that diffused the situation and took the man into protective custody.

Gilbert's actions helped to ensure that nobody else in the park had their safety threatened by this dangerous individual.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gordon Gilbert for his courage and bravery. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Gilbert many more years of continued success.

## FOOD AID FOR AFGHANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 30, 2001*

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I know the American people want to help the suffering Afghan people. I'm sorry to say that we already stand condemned by Medecins Sans Frontieres for conducting nothing more than a propaganda campaign regarding our food drops.

Our brave young men and women are risking their lives to deliver this urgently needed food. But how will we be judged by this new blunder?

I'd like to ask you to take a look at this. . . .

And this. . . .

To more than just a casual observer, they might even get mistaken for being the same thing!

And that's what's got the US military quaking in their boots. Can you imagine the horror if this one gets mistaken for this one?

Well, one is life. . . .

And the other one is death. . . .

The squarish one is the food. . . .

The roundish one is a cluster bomb.

That's what the poor, starving people of Afghanistan must now contend with. The US military is dropping little notes to inform people not to pick up this one, the cluster bomb thinking it's food because if they pick up this one, which is the wrong one, they'll get blown to smithereens.

Isn't it bad enough that our military is dropping cluster bombs on Afghanistan, anyway?

Well, it's really bad because in the war in Bosnia then-Air Force Chief of Staff, Major General Michael Ryan, refused to allow cluster bombs to be dropped because of the civilian deaths associated with cluster bombs, especially that of children.

But now our Air Force refuses to issue such a directive, it appears, as the US comes under fire from humanitarian organizations around the world for dropping cluster bombs on the people of Afghanistan.

I have written a letter to our President asking that we please refrain from using cluster bombs. But a funny thing about those cluster

bombs. They have little bomblets that look like this!

And so when little kids see them, they think they're a toy or something.

Now, Afghanistan already has 10 million landmines and the unexploded bomblets from the cluster bombs add to that number.

So now if the food looks like this, what will hungry children do? But if the food looks like this, and the bombs look like this what will hungry people do? The military bets that they will try to find something to eat.

And so the Pentagon is concerned that people who are hungry for food that looks like this will confuse it with bomblets that look like this.

The Pentagon is now worried that hungry Afghan people will try to eat the bombs thinking it's the American food. So the Pentagon has sent messages to the Afghani people.

One message says, "As you may have heard, the Partnership of Nations is dropping yellow humanitarian daily rations. Although it is unlikely, it is possible that not every bomb will explode on impact. These bombs are a yellow color and are can-shaped."

Another Pentagon message is more to the point: "Please, please exercise caution when approaching unidentified yellow objects in areas that have been recently bombed."

Mr. Speaker, not only do innocent Afghans have to worry about the Taliban . . . not only do they have to worry about landmines left from the last war . . . not only do they have to worry about starving to death . . . and an approaching winter . . . they now have to worry about bombs that look like food.

I think I've heard it all now, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING AMERICAN LEGION POST 82 OF INGLEWOOD, TENNESSEE FOR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor American Legion Post 82 of Inglewood, Tennessee, for humanitarian efforts on behalf of individuals across the Fifth Congressional District.

On July 3, 2001 the family of one of the members of American Legion Post 82 was involved in a tragic automobile accident in which his daughter was killed and two grandchildren were critically injured. This family had no insurance, no money for burial costs, and faced mounting medical expenses.

But members of Post 82 quickly came to the rescue of the Bayless family, by organizing a benefit spaghetti dinner and auction which took place on July 22, 2001. The outpouring of support was overwhelming, as country music artists, local merchants, and the media all offered time and talent to make this event a huge success.

As a result of the community outpouring, Post 82 raised more than \$10,000 for this family. Due to the hard work and compassion of the American Legion, a burden was indeed lifted from this gentleman during a time of personal crisis and loss.

I commend American Legion Post 82 of Inglewood, Tennessee, for thoughtfulness and

sacrifice on behalf of one's fellow man. Individuals such as this exhibit compassion and charity at the very highest levels.

# HONORING THE DIXSON RANCH

## HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to celebrate the consummation of placing the Dixon Ranch property in a Conservation Easement. This easement will ensure that the Dixon Ranch, which has been farmed for over a hundred years, will be in agricultural use in perpetuity.

The Dixon Ranch was purchased by Mr. A.W. Dixon on October 2, 1905, for \$12,000 in gold coins. The property consisted of 41 acres, and a farmhouse that was built in 1894. The Dixon family grew row crops on the farm, including several different varieties of lettuce, and eventually leased the ranch to the Kingo Kawaoka family, who farmed it until they were removed to the Japanese internment camps during World War II. In 1941, A.W. Dixon's son Gordon, Gordon's wife, Wilma, and their two young daughters, Sara, age 6, and Molly, age 4, moved to the farm.

After the war ended, Kingo Kawaoka's family moved back to continue farming in the area. A cousin of the Kawaokas, Noriharu "Bill" Kawaoka, managed the Dixon Ranch from 1954 until his death in 1992. In 1975 the ranch was designated as an agricultural preserve through a land conservation contract with the City of Arroyo Grande. This contract stated that the land would be used for farming purposes rather than property development. Additionally, the Coastal San Luis Conservation Resource District awarded the first annual Soils Stewardship Award to Wilma Dixon at age 89.

Today, the Ikeda Family leases and manages the farm, while Jim Dickens, the son of Sara Dixon, and his family live in the farmhouse, making them the 4th generation of Dixons to live on the ranch.

The Dixon family is committed to soil conservation and agricultural land stewardship as well as sound economic planning. In order to ensure that they would be able to permanently protect their productive farmland, the Dixons were awarded a grant through the State of California's Farmland Conservancy Program. The program promotes cooperation between government, non-profit organizations, and individual landowners in order to purchase agricultural conservation easements. This was augmented by a federal grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I believe this easement is a prime example of the public and private sector working together to ensure agriculture remains viable while simultaneously preserving open space. I am honored to have the Dixon Ranch in my congressional district.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 408, H. Con. Res. 243, Expressing the Sense of Congress Regarding the Presentation of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor in Response to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 409, H.R. 2559, the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Amendments Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 410, H.R. 2910, the Norman Sisisky Post Office Designation Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 411, H. Con. Res. 233, Expressing Congress' Profound Sorrow for the Death and Injuries Suffered by First Responders in the Aftermath of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

# HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF JOHN E. SIRLES III

## HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. John Sirles for his 30 years of service to our nation as a civil servant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since February 1999, he has served as the Deputy District Engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers' Chicago District.

Over the course of his career with the Corps, Mr. Sirles has received numerous awards. He's been awarded the Bronze Order of the deFleury Medal, the Special Act Award, and the Superior Civilian Service Award. He's also received the Exceptional Performance Award on four separate occasions and the PMRS Performance Award five times.

But Mr. Sirles' legacy will not be the countless awards and citations he's received—his legacy will be the public works projects he's worked on and the countless number of individuals he's inspired over his three decade long career with the Army Corps.

If any of my colleagues should visit Chicago, I would encourage them to take a look at the Chicago Shoreline project. Mr. Sirles oversaw and led the completion of the third Project Cooperation Agreement, a critical component to a \$276 million project that will help protect downtown Chicago from flooding.

If any of my colleagues should visit Chicago, I would encourage them to take a look at the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, an ongoing project with an extensive network of tunnels and reservoirs. This project will help reduce flooding to hundreds of thousands of households and improve water quality of the rivers and streams throughout Chicagoland.

Mr. Sirles helped champion these projects and many more during his tenure at the Chicago District.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Sirles. He's been an exemplary public

servant, and his record serves as an example for others.

# RECOGNIZING FOWLER PACKING COMPANY

## HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fowler Packing for setting a standard of excellence in fruit picking, packing and shipping. Fowler Packing's strict attention to detail and a willingness to try new innovations has resulted in the production of top quality Tree-Ripe fruit since 1966.

Sam Parnagian established Fowler Packing Company in the early 1950's. In 1966, Sam recognized an opportunity in the Tree-Ripe fruit industry and focused his company's attention to peaches, plums and nectarines.

Mr. Parnagian went on to influence major advances in western fruit packing. In the early 1970's he built and operated the first commercial hydro-cooler used in stone fruit packing. He was also a big promoter of plastic fruit trays, or "Panapack," as they are commonly called today.

In addition to marketing their own fruit, grown on an estimated 2500 acres, Fowler Packing also packs and markets fruit for more than 50 Central Valley growers. The "Sam-Son" label was created by Sam Parnagian and named after his four sons: Dennis, Phillip, Randy and Ken.

Today, Sam's sons continue Fowler Packing's tradition of quality and innovation. Fowler Packing recently switched from wooden to plastic bins in order to reduce the potential for fruit damage. Progressive ideas like these have made Fowler Packing a leader in the Tree-Ripe fruit industry.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fowler Packing for their commitment to producing quality fruit in the California Central Valley. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Parnagian family and Fowler Packing many more years of continued success.

# HONORING THE SANTA BARBARA GAY PRIDE FESTIVAL

## HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 31, 2001*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor the impending Santa Barbara Gay Pride Festival that will be held in Santa Barbara, California on Saturday, October 20, 2001.

This festival celebrates the advancements the members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community have made. It has evolved over the years from a small picnic in a park to a major festival in Santa Barbara that more than 5,000 people are expected to attend. Gay Pride festivals are held in hundreds of cities nationwide, and this year the Gay Pride Festival will be celebrating the 31st anniversary of the world's first gay pride celebration.

This is the first year that the festival will be held in downtown Santa Barbara, rather than